

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 30-42 and 44-69 are pending in the application, with 30, 41, 51 and 61 being the independent claims. Claim 43 is sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Applicant's representative thanks the Examiner for the helpful personal interview conducted on September 27, 2005. The Examiner has accurately summarized the content of the interview on the interview summary sheet. In response to the interview, Applicant has amended independent claims 50, 61 and 69.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

The Examiner rejected all pending claims over various prior art references, under either 35 U.S.C. § 102 or § 103. In response to the September 27, 2005 interview, Applicant has amended independent claims 30, 41, 51 and 61. Applicant believes the amendments to the pending independent claims serve to more clearly describe the substantially concave curvature of the ends of the first segments of the handle with respect to the opening. As an example of the substantially concave curvature of the ends of the first segments of the handle, the Examiner is respectfully referred to FIGs. 11 and 14 of the present application.

These amendments clearly distinguish the independent claims over the cited prior art references, and render the Examiner's rejections moot. Applicant therefore

respectfully requests that all rejections to independent claims 30, 41, 51 and 61 be reconsidered and withdrawn. For the same reasons, Applicant also requests that the rejections of dependent claims 31-40, 42, 44-50, 52-60 and 62-69 be reconsidered and withdrawn as each depends from a patentable base claim.

Objections to Claim 51 Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75

The Examiner objected to claim 51 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 43. Applicant has cancelled claim 43, thereby rendering the objection to claim 51 moot. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claim 51 be withdrawn.

Miscellaneous

With respect to the restriction requirement, Applicant understands that no election is currently required, but that the restriction remains in place "in case the applicant introduces claims readable on other species." (July 13, 2005 Office Action, ¶ 1.)

With respect to the Examiner's suggestion that the specification be amended to indicate proper priority, Applicant respectfully refers the Examiner to the Preliminary Amendment filed December 24, 2003, wherein Applicant amended the specification to claim priority.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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